(b) by when the pending applications would be cleared; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) At present 190 LPG distributorships are pending for selection of distributors through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in Bihar. 57 DSBs have been set up, which include 7 for Bihar, for early selection of dealers/distributors. Selection is made in a phased manner, and it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the exact time frame for completion of selection for the pending locations.

Review of Prices of Petroleum Products

872. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to review the price of the petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard, so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the steps are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) International as well as domestic prices of petroleum products is monitored and reviewed regularly.

Government, in November, 1997, decided to dismantle the Administered Pricing Mechanism in a phased manner. The said decision, *inter alia*, includes the following:

(i) That subsidy on kerosene for public distribution would be brought down to 33.33% of the import parity price by the year 2001-02.

(ii) That subsidy on domestic LPG would be brought down to 15% of import parity price during the year 2000-01.

(iii) That price of diesel would continue to be fixed on the principle of import parity as per Cabinet decision of 01.09.1997.

Review of petroleum prices is a continuous process.